

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (currently amended) A file system, comprising:  
a plurality of servers configured to store data; and  
a master connected to the servers and configured to:  
communicate with the servers upon startup of the master to ~~authoritatively~~  
identify the data stored by the servers, [[and]]  
record, in a non-persistent manner, location information that identifies ones of the  
servers that store the data, and  
periodically instruct, after recording the location information, the servers to  
provide information regarding the data stored by the servers.
2. (original) The system of claim 1, wherein the data corresponds to files stored as  
chunks by the servers.
3. (original) The system of claim 1, wherein the master is further configured to  
control placement of new data at the servers.
4. (previously presented) The system of claim 3, wherein when controlling the  
placement of new data, the master is configured to:  
identify one or more of the servers to store the new data based on at least one of

utilization of the servers, prior chunk distribution involving the servers, network topology, or failure correlation properties associated with the servers, and

place the new data at the identified one or more servers.

5. (original) The system of claim 1, wherein the master is further configured to control redistribution of the data stored by the servers.

6. (original) The system of claim 5, wherein when controlling redistribution of the data, the master is configured to:

select data to redistribute based on a current distribution of the data,

identify one or more of the servers to which to move the selected data, and

move the selected data to the identified one or more servers.

7. (original) The system of claim 1, wherein the master is further configured to monitor a state of the servers.

8. (original) The system of claim 7, wherein the master is configured to exchange heartbeat signals with the servers to determine the state of the servers.

9. (original) The system of claim 8, wherein the heartbeat signals include space utilization information.

10. (original) The system of claim 7, wherein the state of the servers includes information regarding the data stored by the servers.

11. (original) The system of claim 10, wherein the information includes version numbers of the data.

12. (canceled)

13. (currently amended) ~~[[In]]~~ A master in a file system that includes ~~[[a]]~~ the master connected to a plurality of servers, the master comprising:

means for performing a startup operation;

means for communicating with the servers at least one of during or after the startup operation to ~~authoritatively~~ identify the data stored by the servers; ~~[[and]]~~

means for storing, in a non-persistent manner, location information that identifies ones of the servers that store the data; and

means for updating the location information by periodically instructing the servers to identify the data stored by the servers.

14. (canceled)

15. (currently amended) A file system, comprising:

a plurality of servers configured to store files as chunks; and

a master connected to the servers and configured to:

~~authoritatively~~ determine location information by communicating with the servers, the location information being based on which of the servers store ones of the chunks,

store the location information in a non-persistent manner, and  
update the location information by periodically communicating with the servers to obtain changes to the location information.

16. (currently amended) A file system, comprising:

a plurality of servers configured to store data; and

a master connected to the servers and configured to:

communicate with the servers to ~~authoritatively~~ determine location information of the data, the location information being based on which of the servers store the data,

store the location information in a non-persistent manner,  
periodically communicate with the servers to obtain changes to the location information, and

update the location information based on the changes to the location information.

17. (currently amended) A file system, comprising:

a plurality of servers configured to store data; and

a master connected to the servers and configured to:

communicate with the servers to ~~authoritatively~~ determine location information of

the data, the location information being based on which of the servers store the data,  
store the location information in a non-persistent manner,  
instruct one of the servers to perform an action concerning the data, the action  
causing a change in the location information, and  
update the location information based on the change to the location information  
upon completion of the action.

18. (currently amended) A file system, comprising:

a plurality of servers configured to store data; and

a master connected to the servers and configured to:

communicate with the servers to ~~authoritatively~~ determine information regarding  
the data,

store the location information in a non-persistent manner,

instruct one of the servers to perform an action concerning the data, the action  
causing a state change associated with the information, and

update state information based on the state change upon completion of the action.